

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method are provided for routing information in a multi-node network. In one embodiment of a multi-node network comprising a plurality of distributed switching nodes, a method is implemented in at least one of the plurality of nodes for routing information entering the node over a first channel to one of a plurality of other channels. The method comprises obtaining priority information for the information, ascertaining a remaining communication length for the information for each of the plurality of other channels, determining a current demand for each of the plurality of other channels; and routing the information entering at the first channel to one of the other channels based upon an evaluation that considers a combination of the obtained priority information, the ascertained communication length for each of the plurality of other channels, and the current demand for each of the plurality of other channels.